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NATIONAL WAR FRONT BUREAU

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LECTURE CXXXV.

THE RED ARMY.

SWORD OF HONOUR TO STALINGRAD.

HIS MAJESTY'S TRIBUTE.

To-day I and my peoples join with the peoples of the Soviet Union in wholehearted tribute to the heroic qualities, and magnificent leadership, whereby the Red Army, in its struggle against our common enemies, has, by its resounding triumphs, written new pages of history.

It was the unyielding resistance of Stalingrad that turned the tide, and heralded the crushing blows which have struck dismay into the foes of civilisation, and freedom.

To mark the profound admiration felt by myself and the peoples of the British Empire, I have given command for the preparation of a Sword of Honour, which it would give me pleasure to present to the City of Stalingrad.

My hope would be that this gift might commemorate, in happier times to come, the inflexible courage with which the warrior city steeled herself against the powerful and persistent onslaughts of her assailants, and that it might be a token of admiration, not only of the British peoples, but of the whole civilised world.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S TRIBUTE TO THE RED ARMY.

To-day, the great successes on the Russian Front have led thousands of Americans to throw their hats in the air and proclaim that victory is just round the corner. Others among us believe in the age of miracles. They forget there is no Joshua in our midst.

FAITH AND HOPE.

We cannot count on the great walls crumbling and falling when a trumpet blows and peoples shout. It is not enough that we have faith and that we have hope. Washington himself was the exemplification of the other great need. Would that all of us could live our lives, and direct our thoughts, and control our tongues, as did the father of our country.

The enforced retreat of the enemy has cost him heavily in men, supplies, and territory and, especially, in morale. Such achievements can only be accomplished by an army that has skilful leadership, sound organisation, adequate training, and above all, determination to defeat the enemy, no matter what the cost and sacrifice.

At the same time, I also wish to pay a tribute to the Russian people from whom the Red Army springs, and upon whom it is dependent for its men, women, and supplies. They, too, are giving their full efforts to the war and are making the supreme sacrifice. The Red Army and the Russian people have surely started Hitler's forces on the road to ultimate defeat, and have earned the lasting admiration of the people of the United States.

SALUTE THE RED ARMY.

Mr. ANTHONY EDEN'S TRIBUTE.

Never in all its long, proud history has the German Army sustained such unmitigated disaster as the Red Army has inflicted upon it in the Battle of Stalingrad. Hitler has been out-generaled, out-manoeuvred and out-fought.

We have had one bit of really good news lately. To-day, the armies of the Soviet Union have forced him to stand before Germany as the man who is personally responsible for the slaughter of over a quarter of million of the best of his own troops.

In three months, the Red Army has conquered all territory wrested from it by the Germans during the summer of last year, and much more besides, for the Red Army has driven into the minds of the German people the lesson that German troops can be defeated, and hurled into the confusion of retreat.

We are proud that our own Eighth Army taught Rommel that lesson too. Hitler's grand army, like Napoleon's, has found that there is deadly risk in a trial of strength against Russian patriotism, against the Russian peoples' capacity to endure the sternest sacrifice, and against the great spaces of the Russian motherland.

MASTERLY STRATEGY.

On this anniversary, we pay tribute to every department of the Red Army, to the High Command under the supreme direction of M Stalin himself, for their masterly strategy, to the generals in the field for its brilliant

execution, to the junior officers of every rank for their gallant, and skilled leadership of the troops, to the non-commissioned officers, and men for their stubborn endurance in adversity, and the ardour with which they have swung over to the offensive, to the gallant men of the Red Air Force, and to all those responsible for overcoming the appalling difficulties of communications and supply.

Not the least, I think, this country would wish to pay a tribute to the deathless courage of the guerilla forces of the Soviet Union, to the men of the Royal Navy, and the Merchant Marine, who, in all seasons, and in all waters, have braved the perils of that northern route, to carry munitions and supplies of all kinds to our Russian Allies.

We recognise the spirit of the Soviet peoples as akin to that which filled the hearts of everyone in these islands when, after Dunkirk the enemy challenged our own determination never to submit.

NO MORE RED BOGEY.

Goebbels' efforts were to foster suspicion between the Allies and play up the "bogey of Bolshevism."

Fortunately we do not find it hard to recognise this highly coloured figure. He was used to frighten Europe while Austria was seized, while Czechoslovakia was swallowed and Poland threatened. Now this Red bogey is out again, in company with another figure. We are asked to contemplate Hitler as the saviour of European civilisation. This figure lacks something in 1943.

Saviour of civilisation, what mockery! Hitler, the only begetter of this hideous war! Hitler the ravager of Warsaw, of Rotterdam, Belgrade and Coventry, and of countless Russian cities! Hitler, the apostle of the doctrine of the *Herrenvolk*, a doctrine that all Europe must slave and starve for the German overlord! Hitler, who has abolished the rule of law even in his own land!

There is only one way that this man can save mankind. Let him lead this monstrous Nazi machine which he created, to utter destruction, and let him become for his own Germany and for the world, such an awful monument to evil doing, and evil thinking that men will be for ever, warned to combine in time to prevent the rise of such another.

In May last, we signed, here in London, the Anglo-Soviet Treaty of Alliance. We are not only agreed to work together for the utter destruction of the Axis in the war; we are agreed on the broad principles which will underline our collaboration in peace.

To-day we salute the Red Army, the true successors of those who fought against the Teuton knights in the days of Alexander Nevski against the would-be conqueror, Charles the Twelfth, against the Grand Army of Napoleon. We salute and mourn their gallant dead. We look forward to the final victory that will be won together.

WEEKLY WAR SUMMARY.

20—2—43 to 26—2—43.

Russia.—Soviet forces reoccupied the following places during the week:— February 19-LUBOTIN and MERAFA, west of KHARKOV; OBAYON in the KURSK Province; February 20: POVLOGRAD and KRASNOGRAD; February 21: BOKOVO—ANTRATSIT in the Donetz Basin; February 23: SUMY, AKHTYARKA and LEBEDIN in the UKRAINE and MALO ARKHANGELSK in the KURSK region.

Of the present Russian objectives—OREL, SUMY, POLTAVA, STALINO, DNEPROPETROVSK and NOVOROSSISK, SUMY has been captured, STALINO has been by-passed and it is believed that DNEPROPETROVSK may be abandoned by the enemy. Fierce fighting is now raging for the possession of the DONBAS and OREL regions. Russian forces are closing in on NOVOROSSISK.

Tunisia.—Rommel's Afrika Korps has now withdrawn to the Mareth Line and Montgomery's 8th Army following in the rear has occupied MEDININE, and TATAPUVINA near the northern and southern sectors of the line. JERBA Island has also been captured.

Meanwhile the enemy taking advantage of the unpreparedness of the American 5th Army forced the evacuation of the air-fields at THELAPTHE in Southern TUNISIA and also captured the towns of GAFSA, FERIANA, KASSERINE and SBEITLA thereby gaining control of the railway running to SOUSSIE and widening his corridor on the coast. He also occupied PICHON—the westernmost point in the Allies mountainous defence line west of KAIRWAN. In consequence Allied forward positions had been withdrawn in the Ousseltia valley.

A further German attempt to force the Kasserine Pass in the hills behind the GAFSA-TUNIS railway and advance to THALA has been arrested. The Kasserine Pass has since been retaken.

An attempt east of RABAA to move towards PONT DU FAHS has also been beaten off.

From February 20 the 8th Army has become part of the North African Forces. General Alexander has taken over the command of all land forces in North AFRICA.

North Pacific.—Japanese positions in Holtz Bay and CHICAGO Harbour both in ATTU Island and at KISKA were bombed. A United States naval unit operating in the Western ALEUTIANS sank a Japanese supply ship.

South West Pacific.—Allied air raids were carried out on the SHORTLAND Islands, BALLE, and BOUGAINVILLE; On KAHALI, BUIN, FAISI, DILA and VILA, all in KOLOMBANGAR Island and MUNDA (NEW GEORGIA); as also on RABAUL, CAPE GLOUCESTER, LAE, MUBO, KOEPANG, and GASMATA.

China.—Extensive Japanese offensives in HUPEH, KIANGSI, KWANG and SHANSI Provinces as well as in the Yangtse Valley are reported. In the LINCHOW Peninsula in KWANTUNG Province the Japanese made some advance. Japanese troops were landed on the 17th at KWANGCHOWAN—a French Concession but they were beaten off at SAMSHUI. Both the places are in KWANTUNG Province. Two enemy attempts to cross the Salween towards PAOSHAN and the Mamian Pass were beaten off.

Fierce fighting is raging north-west of NANCHANG in north KIANGSI, and in the MAMING KWAN and MING-KWANG areas.

Burma.—The following places were raided during the week.

February 16. HPUNG in ZUP and NSOP ZUP, in North BURMA (by the 10th U. S. Air Force).

February 17. YAGYANUYIN (AKYAB Island), DONBAIK HEHO and MONGWA (by the R. A. F.)

February 18. YWATUNG (Central BURMA), MAINGKWAN (by the U. S. Air Force).

February 19. HUPINGWIKA (by the U. S. Air Force); TOUNGOO and AKYAB Island (by the R. A. F.)

February 21. PORT DUFFERIN (in MANDALAY) and MEZA (by the R. A. F.)

February 23. A small formation of enemy bombers escorted by fighters attacked an American air base in ASSAM from a high altitude. There was no material damage. The casualties were slight.

ALLIED AIR RAIDS.

14—2—43 (Sunday).

EUROPE (4 Axis planes shot down; 2 Allied planes lost).

DAY:—

Railway workshops and engine sheds at TOUR.

Railway targets and damaged locomotives in Northern FRANCE and HOLLAND.

NIGHT— (11 Allied bombers missing):—

COLOGNE (Germany).

MILAN (Italy).

NAPLES (Italy).

TUNISIA and the MEDITERRANEAN.

Vehicles and concentration of tanks at MAKNASSY and SENED.

Enemy troops north of FAID.

Air combats over the battle areas.

RUSSIA.

Air combats and aircraft on the ground all along the Russian Front.

FAR EAST.

Enemy base at RABAUL (N. Britain).

The airfield at BUIN (Solomons).

The airfield at MADANG and LAE (N. Guinea).

UBILI (N. Britain).

The airfield at HEHO and SHWEBO (both in Burma).

AKYAB Island and **other parts** of Jap occupied Burma.

15—2—43. (Monday).

EUROPE.

DAY:—

The docks and shipping at DUNKIRK.

NIGHT:—

Laying mines in enemy coastal waters.

TUNISIA and the MEDITERRANEAN (3 Allied planes missing).

The docks at BIZERTA.

The airfield near KAIRWAN.

Air combats over the battlefield (11 enemy planes shot down).

The harbour at PALERMO (Sicily).

RUSSIA.

Air combats and grounded aircraft all over the entire Russian Front.

FAR EAST.

The harbour at RABAUL (N. Britain).

Port DOBO in the ARU Islands (Aleutians).

Shore installations at AMBOINA (D. E. Indies).

RATHEDAUNG (Burma).

16—2—43 (Tuesday).

EUROPE.

DAY:—

Submarine base at ST. NAZAIRE (France).

Offensive sweeps over the ENGLISH CHANNEL and FRANCE (6 allied planes missing).

NIGHT :—

The enemy submarine base at LORIENT (France).

Communications and transports at many points in FRANCE, BELGIUM and GERMANY.

TUNISIA and the MEDITERRANEAN.

Enemy vehicles west cf BEN GARDAN (Tunisia).

Enemy gun positions and vehicles behind the enemy lines.

An enemy tanker in the SICILIAN Channel.

Rail targets in southern ITALY and SICILY.

RUSSIA.

Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the entire Russian Front.

FAR EAST.

MUNDA (N. Georgia).

KOLOMBANGARA Island.

The airfield at LAE (N. Guinea).

Shipping at SALAMAUA (N. Guinea).

DILI (Timor).

YEGYANBYIN (Burma).

The airfields at HEHO and MONYWA (both in Burma).

The enemy head-quarters at NSOPZUP (Burma).

17—2—43 (Wednesday).

EUROPE.

DAY (2 Allied planes missing) :—

DUNKIRK area.

Enemy communications in FRANCE and BELGIUM.

The railway centre at TOURS (France).

Railway engines and an electric power plant at AUBE (Normandy in France).

NIGHT :—

Small enemy vessels off the FRENCH coast.

TUNISIA and the MEDITERRANEAN.

The docks at BIZERTA.

The airfield at TUNIS.

Enemy airfields in SARDINIA.

The harbour at HERAKLION (Crete).

RUSSIA.

Air combats and grounded aircraft all over the Russian battle-field.

FAR EAST.

The airfield at GASMATA (N. Britain) LAE and SALAMAUA (N. Guinea).

UBILI andc BABO (N. Britain).

Jap troops near MUBO.

A schooner off CAPE GLOUCESTER.

Rolling stock at YWATAUNG (Burma).

Jap headquarters at MAINGKWAN.

Enemy troops north off TARO.

MEZALICAN on the Irrawaddy (Burma).

18—2—43 (Thursday).

EUROPE.

DAY :—

The docks at DEN HELDER (Netherlands) (1 Allied plane missing).

NIGHT (7 Allied planes missing):—

The Naval base at WILHELMSHAVEN (Germany).

Railway and canal targets in FRANCE and BELGIUM.

Shipping off the enemy coast.

NORTH AFRICA and MEDITERRANEAN.

Motor vehicles between SOUSSE and SFAX.

Ground targets in FERIANA area.

Railway targets in southern ITALY.

Shipping off SICILY.

RUSSIA.

Air combats and aircraft on the ground all along the entire Russian Front.

FAR EAST.

MUNDA (N. Georgia).

DILA (Kolombangara Islands).

The airfields at LAE (N. Guinea) and RABAUL (N. Britain).

Railroads west of MEZA (Burma).

The airfield at TOUNGOO (Burma).

Villages in the AKYAB area.

Railway trucks in North Burma.

19—2—43 (Friday).

EUROPE (14 Allied planes missing).

DAY :—

NAPLES and COTRONE (Italy).

NIGHT :—

The Naval base at WILHELMSHAVEN (Germany).

TUNISIA and the MEDITERRANEAN.

Enemy vehicles between SOUSSE and SFAX.

Targets in SICILY.

The airfields at HERAKLION and KASTELLI PEDIADA (Crete).

RUSSIA.

Air combats and grounded aircraft all over the entire Russian Front.

FAR EAST.

BUIN (Solomons).

The airfields at KAHALI and BALANCE Island.

LAE area (N. Guinea).

SINBAIK on the NAYU Peninsula (Burma).

Villages on the AKYAB area.

Rivercraft in the KALADAN River area (Burma)

20—2—43 (Saturday).

EUROPE.

NIGHT:—

Laying mines in enemy coastal waters.

TUNISIA and the MEDITERRANEAN.

Enemy forces near KASSERINE PASS.

The docks at BIZERTA.

Vehicles behind the enemy's lines.

Railway targets in SICILY.

RUSSIA.

Air combats and grounded aircraft all over the Russian Front.

FAR EAST.

BUIN and FAISI (Solomons).

The airfields at LAE and SALAMAUA (N. Guinea).

DILA (Kolambangara).

Enemy occupied areas in the MAYU Peninsula (Burma).

Villages in the AKYAB area.

Rivercraft in the CHINDWIN and KALADAN Rivers.

Road and Ry. transports in Burma.

ENEMY AIR RAIDS.

15—2—43 (Monday).

BRITAIN.

No air raid anywhere in BRITAIN.

NORTH AFRICA.

The harbour at BENGHAZI (no damage).

FAR EAST.

Br. forward positions in the RATHEDAUNG area.

16—2—43 (Tuesday).

BRITAIN.

No information available.

NORTH AFRICA.

Allied forward positions in central TUNISIA.

FAR EAST.

A ship off GUADALCANAR.

17—2—43 (Wednesday).

BRITAIN.

South-east coast of BRITAIN (Slight activity).

NORTH AFRICA.

OUSSELTIA valley (Tunisia).

FAR EAST.

Fighter support to ground troops in the MUBO area.

18—2—43 (Thursday).

BRITAIN.

No air raid anywhere in BRITAIN.

NORTH AFRICA.

ALGIERS area.

FAR EAST.

Air combats over the fighting area in MUBO area (N. Guinea).

19—2—43 (Friday).

BRITAIN.

No information available.

NORTH AFRICA.

PICHON ((Tunisia).

FAR EAST.

Air comats over the MUBO area (N. Guinea) (1 Jap plane shot down).

20—2—43 (Saturday).

BRITAIN.

Coastal districts of North-east SCOTLAND.

NORTH AFRICA.

SIBEITLA (Tunisia).

21—2—43 (Sunday).

BRITAIN.

No air raid anywhere in BRITAIN.

NORTH AFRICA.

Allied positions in and around KASSERINE PASS.

FAR EAST.

No information available.

SIDE LIGHTS.

THE RED ARMY DAY. Glowing and fitting tributes were paid to the heroism and achievements of the Red Army when the United Nations, joined RUSSIA in the celebration of its 25th anniversary on Sunday last. His Majesty the King Emperor has offered a Sword of Honour to commemorate the heroism of STALINGRAD, the 'Warrior-city'. The pageant which formed a principal feature of the LONDON celebrations was worthy of the occasion, and was as impressive as it was original in conception and symbolic in character. Ministers and diplomats joined with common working men and women and stood like a wall of living and varied colour in front of a panorama of STALINGRAD. As the massed bands struck up the *internationale* a white pillar arose bearing aloft the figures of a Red-Soldier—rifle in hand, and standing four-square to the invader—fit emblem of STALINGRAD. Then came a minute's silence—a smart presentation of arms—the *last post* and the unfurling of the Red Flag—to be followed by another panorama—this time a series of historic scenes representative of Russian victories against the Swede and the Teuton, the Frank and the Hun. The final scene of all unfolded the victory of MOSCOW and STALINGRAD, with a blood-red light blazing over the fading Swastika.

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THE RED ARMY. The Soviet Army is a creation of recent times as may in fact be inferred from the fact that it is only its 25th anniversary that was celebrated on Sunday last. It did not figure in Lenin's conception of the Soviet. Lenin, who was for the abolition of all armies retained the old Russian standing army however to overcome internal resistance to his regime. Stalin who succeeded him,

realising its usefulness placed it in 1923 on a war footing and raised it to its present strength, under the very nose of Hitler, employing German engineers and technicians for part of the work.

The Red Army is every day growing from strength to strength. The Russian General Staff are busy preparing for a summer offensive which will surpass the winter victories. Stalin has ordered that not a single enemy soldier shall remain on Russian soil after this summer. For this three million new soldiers equipped with the most modern weapons are being trained in RUSSIA's interior, in SIBERIA and the URALS and will soon be ready to deal a *coup-de-grace.* The Swastika will be pulled down whereever it flies over Russian soil.

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HER ACHIEVEMENTS. But this is to anticipate the future. The Red Army has achieved enough already to win the World's admiration. She has, in the words of His Majesty, written new pages of history. In three months of winter she has reconquered the whole of the German conquests of last summer. Psychologically her achievements are greater still. As did the British 8th Army earlier in EGYPT and LIBYA she has also exposed the legend of invincibility of the Nazi army and smashed the myth of infallibility of its leader and strangest of all, the Red Army to-day has now become the stoutest defender of the World's democracy. She has contributed substantially to the world's peace and evolved a new strategy of defence against the Panzer's 'mechanised lightning attacks'.

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THE SECRET OF SUCCESS. What is the secret of this success? The age of miracles is past. The success is due to 'the vision, judgment, persistence and power' of Stalin combined with the patriotisim of the Russian people. The Red Army is not an automaton, like the Nazi machine, it consists of thinking men and fervent patriots, grim and stern in their unshakable determination.

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NAZI REACTIONS. Perhaps the best proof of the success of the Red Army is in the reactions of the enemy and his satellites. Goebbels speaking on the 18th at the BERLIN Sports Palast observed that STALINGRAD was and is 'the great alarm call of fate to the German nation', that 'the hardest consequences should be drawn', that 'the misfortune was of deep and fateful significance', and that it was 'a military trial', and " a giant danger'.

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THE SATELLITES IN REVOLT. A large-scale revolt is on foot in BULGARIA. Troubles are brewing in RUMANIA.

Hitler has ordered the arming of all peasants of German blood in GERMANY in fear of a rising among the prisoners of war and foreign workers in GERMANY.

HITLER'S POLITICAL OFFENSIVE. Peace feelers are thrown out in fear and in a vain attempt to divide the Allies. The propaganda is in two voices, one addressed to BRITAIN and AMERCIA trying to put out that a Russian Victory is a threat to Democracy; and the other to the Russians who are told that if GERMANY and RUSSIA bled each other it would be to the profit of Western Imperialism.

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FESTUNG EUROPA. GERMANY's fears are not confined to RUSSIA only. Her growing apprehension is the coming Allied invasion, which after CASABLANCA has become a certainty. 'We have now more important things to think about than the Russian front', said a German Radio commentator a few days ago. His fears have been echoed by the German Newspaper *Muenchner Neueste Nachrichten* which has stated: 'Every day there is a possibility that, be it in the far north, the Mediterranean or the BALKANS, we may be confronted with severe trials of strength.' Worst of all she is haunted by uncertainty, as she does not know when the blow will fall and where. So Hitler is preparing against a big siege of EUROPE by erecting fortifications from the North Cape to the Eastern Mediterranean. Festung Europa he calls it and his propagandists claim for it the quality of invincibility—now a discredited word—forgetting that the 'invincible' Maginot Line, a great defensive fortress, fell to the German onslaught three years ago. Throughout 1942 German Engineers have been erecting pill-boxes all along the coast of NORWAY, the LOW COUNTRIES and FRANCE in preparation for an expected assault based on the BRITISH ISLES. On July 15 the defence area in BELGIUM was extended to a depth of six miles from the coast. On July 29 the BERLIN Radio said that in Northern FRANCE fortifications had been as speedily completed as the Siegfrid Line was in 1938 and 1939. On July 31, the German Trans-Ocean reported that the Atlantic Coast had been made a 'gigantic fortress.'

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FESTUNG GERMANIA. But now it seems that all this confidence is crumbling in sight of fresh dangers, because, afraid that Festung Europa may not be strong enough, the Germans are building a second and smaller defence line, within the first. Festung Germania it is called. It is a new line of about 500 miles extending along the Vistula in POLAND. The Maginot Line itself has been reconditioned, with the guns now pointing westward. Another defence line now runs along the Meuse and the Moselle. New fortifications are rising on the Brenner Pass.

This, however, does not complete the frantic preparations. The Anglo-American descent on North-AFRICA has altered the situation and brought a new

threat to Southern-EUROPE, both east and west, with the result that new fortifications are now thrown up along the northen coast of the Mediterranean from the Spanish frontier to the Turkish frontier.

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THE BALKANS. The German military situation has become more precarious than ever in south-eastern EUROPE owing to the reactions of the BALKANS since STALINGRAD and CASABLANCA. 'The advance of the Red Army' writes the Swiss paper *Berner Tagwacht* 'is a great danger to HUNGARY, RUMANIA, SLOVAKIA, BULGARIA and the whole of South-eastern EUROPE. While GREECE and YUGO-SLAVIA chose the hard path of honour the Governments of other Balkan Countries decided that German Victory was a safe investment which would yield rich dividends in territorial plunder and so consolidate their own position under German protection.'

All this has proved a Dead Sea fruit. Hopes of a German Victory have vanished and the only hope that remains is to placate the United Nations when the time comes.

Meanwhile GERMANY'S position is becoming difficult, as indeed it must when a gangster cannot pay his gang. What is worse, as GERMANY weakens her demands on the satellites increase. More troops, more food-stuffs and more oil are in request. The puppet States, threatened with such daily exactions, have to face their own angry populace becoming more and more conscious that they are stripped of their men and resources in support of a hopeless and profitless adventure. This is the present condition in the Balkan Peninsula, which Hitler, before he invaded RUSSIA, took care to bar and bolt and where he now fears the Allies may strike, it may be, in the BALKANS in preference to NORWAY or the LOWER COUNTRIES, to western or southern FRANCE, or ITALY. Where they will actually strike is the secret of CASABLANCA. Meanwhile in fear and trepidation Hitler is fortifying the Adriatic and the Aegean sea-board against an Allied attack.

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TUNISIAN OPERATIONS. The Allied set-back this week in Central TUNISIA was of a temporary character and has now been partly retrieved, as is evident from the latest news. The Germans themselves admit it is local. The Axis success is easy to explain. Axis troops under Von Arnim in the horn of TUNISIA, holding a coastal strip from BIZERTA to the Mareth Line, had been for some time trying to effect a junction with Rommel retreating to the Mareth Line. Otherwise there was danger of his being squeezed against the coast, especially because the American 5th Army was moving towards SFAX on the coast to cut Arnim from

Rommel. The Americans had almost reached MEKNASSI, within 60 miles of the sea and were also moving towards Montgomery marching towards the Mareth Line. But the American attempt was a bit too early as Montgomery was not yet in position and required time, after his long march, and on account of the weather, to consolidate his strength. The American position was also weak, being held loosely from SUSA to TOZEUR on Lake Jerid, and precariously connected with the base at TEBESSA through wild country. This was the Axis opportunity and it struck. Axis forces are now in possession of the entire railway from south KAIRWAN to TOZEUR, including GAFSA, SBEITLA, KASSERINA and FERIANA. The enemy now holds the coastal area and the prospects of a junction of the American 5th Army with the British 8th Army have receded for the present. [As we go to press the news has come that the MASSERINE PASS has been cleared of the enemy—Editor.]

Making a steady advance the British 8th Army has occupied BEN GARDANE, MEDININE, FOUM TATAHIUNINE and reached the Mareth Line. The nearer it comes to the line the less eager is Von Arnim to renew his attacks and use up his strength in local attempts against the American forces in Central TUNISIA. How far the enemy is dependent on the Mareth Line is not known.

Von Arnim is believed to have an army of over 100,000 men in North TUNISIA while Rommel's battered strength, including the TRIPOLITANIA garrisons he has taken with him, may be about 60,000 Germans and 70,000 Italians.

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THE JAPANESE JUGGERNAUT.

Madame Chiang Kai-Shek, who arrived in WASHINGTON on the 17th, had a personal welcome from President Roosevelt and Mrs. Roosevelt. On the following day she addressed the U. S. House of Representatives—a unique honour—and warned the United Nations of the growing power of JAPAN who was using up the resources of the occupied countries to increase her strength. This she described as the peril of Juggernaut. What CHINA wanted to meet the danger was not men but weapons. President Roosevelt in reply said that Americans would send the help as quickly 'as the Lord will let them do it' and assured her that CHINA would soon be made the base of attack on JAPAN.

In fact the first step in this direction was taken at CASABLANCA at which the plan was laid for a new offensive phase in which JAPAN would be finally crushed. The CHUNGKING conference that has followed, between Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek, General Henry Arnold and Field-Marshal Sir John Dill was the next step. Commenting on this the *New York Herald Tribune* says:

'Meagre as the CHUNGKING conference news has been so far, the very fact, that a concrete plan of action was decided upon as part of the master-plan of war strategy, is enough for those of us who realise that the full importance of the FAR EAST has been recognised as holding half of the World's population and that CHINA has heen made one of the centres of coming attacks. Admiral Harry E. Yarnell, well-known commentator adds, We know that BERLIN and TOKYO may conceivably be bombed on the same day. We know, as we never knew before, that there is no second front in this war against the powers of evil, but many first fronts.'

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BOMB-LOAD. It is interesting to compare bomb-loads dropped by the Allied bombers east and west. While in the west, at LORIENT, COLOGNE, ESSEN, BREMEN and HAMBURG the load is something like a thousand tons, that dropped over RANGOON or RABAUL is barely 50 tons. It does not mean however, *either* that the Western Targets require heavier bombs *or* that the eastern offensive is not carried on with bombs heavy enough. Rather is it a question of the needs of situation. There are, as we know, three types of bombs :—(1) demolition, (2) incendiary and (3) fragmentation. Each is suitable for a particular purpose. It would be wasteful for instance to drop a thousand-pound bomb on a small target like a ship at sea. In this case a smaller load would suffice. In the case of targets like oil tanks both demolition and incendiary bombs should be used, the first to pierce the tank and the second to set fire to the oil. A similar combination should be employed against factories. The targets in the west require the use of very heavy bombs, because they happen to be heavily defended and comprise extensive industrial areas or docks several miles in length. But in the east the targets are small in comparison, requiring generally not more than half a ton of bomb-load. That is the reason why smaller loads are carried in the eastern air offensives but they are none the less effective and are quite adequate for the task in hand.

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WAR MEASURES IN PUDUKKOTTAI. The PUDUKKOTTAI Government have promulgated a Regulation for the trial and punishment of those who attempt any act likely to assist the enemy or impede the work of His Majesty's Forces.

The PUDUKKOTTAI Darbar have also prohibited the export of gunny bags and gingelly cake from the State except on a written authorisation.

A food grains Import Control Order has also been issued prohibiting import without a license of paddy or rice for sale into PUDUKKOTTAI State from the districts of TRICHINOPOLY, TANJORE and SOUTH ARCOT. The

licensee should, immediately on receipt of his consignment, report the price, quality and quantity of the rice or paddy he has bought and release for sale such quantities and at such time and place as may be fixed by the Darbar. He should not also charge a profit of more than four annas per bag in respect of rice and two annas a bag in respect of paddy.

TWENTY YEARS OF RODS—AND AXIS.

(*Observer*)

By a Student of Europe.

For them victory would be slavery. They have already lost honour and an empire. What have they to gain? They have nothing to win but their chains.

This is the bitter paradox of the Italian people, first serfs in the Hitlerite chain-gang. Mussolini may be the senior partner in years and the schoolmaster of Himmler in iniquity. But no pedagogue who ever set out to teach ever found himself so thoroughly condemned to kiss and hand over the rod which he himself used to brandish.

Twenty years ago Mussolini came to power in Italy. Perhaps no one was more surprised than Mussolini himself. At the time he was overshadowed in the public estimate by D'Annunzio, from whose odd mixture of poetry, politics, and buccaneering, of gas and glory, and romantic posturing, so many of his tastes and ambitions were borrowed; even on the Fascist beach he was by no means the only pebble.

HE MARCHED IN HIS SLEEP.

He had no great hopes of the venture. When the generals, led by the Duke of Aosta, decided that the time for "strong government" had come, he cautiously led the "March on Rome" from Milan—conveniently near to the frontier; and he made the "March" himself—by first-class sleeping car—only when success was assured.

Success was assured on October 28, 1922, because the king, threatened with a compulsory abdication if he declined, refused to put his signature to the document declaring a "State of Siege." But for three years Mussolini's position was still uncertain; and when the cold-blooded murder of Matteoti, the gallant and respected Opposition leader, shocked the civilised world, the Fascist regime was rocked to its foundations.

He survived because his opponents, displaying a Latin weakness, thought that talk was equivalent to action and, having survived, he established his position by the familiar methods of dictators in all ages—by proscribing all opposition, by the ruthless use of a personal bodyguard, by "lopping the tallest

poppies," and by a process of continual revision among his entourage known in Italy as "the changing of the guard."

A GERMAN PROVINCE.

But the times are drawing to an end. The net result of Mussolini's policy has been to make his country a mere satrapy of Germany, a nation always unpopular with most Italians, and to earn for himself the contempt of the civilised world. He has never gained the mass enthusiasm of his people as Hitler has done in Germany. Active opposition inside Italy has long been difficult. But the Italian people's feelings have been best shown, as always, by their jests; and now, under the the pressure of hardship, jests are beginning to give way to riots. The Italian army's heart has never been in this war, and if Italian soldiers have surrendered by the hundred thousand it is not so much for lack of bravery as for lack of enthusiasm. Wise people will neither mock nor underrate their foes. It is absurd to scoff at Italian armies; for those who must mock, Il Duce is sufficient target.

All the evidence from Italy points to a war-wearied people who would gladly take the first opportunity of escaping from the conflict if they could. But Himmler has just been doing his best (or worst) and will continue to be vigilant lest Italy should slip out on the quiet.

Himmler, however, cannot control the millions of persons of Italian descent living abroad. At a huge gathering in Montevideo recently the Italian emigration charged Count Sforza (a former Foreign Secretary) with the creation of a National Council and Colonel Pacciardi (who led the anti-Fascist contingent in Spain) with the creation of an Italian fighting force for the Allied cause. Count Sforza declared a few months ago:

"The Allied statesmen lack a dynamic policy towards Italy—when they have such a policy Fascism will be dead within a few months."

The United States Government has made its response. Mr. Dean Acheson, Assistant Secretary of State, has openly called on Italians "to shake off Mussolini and his fellow-gangsters," and 600,000 Italian nationals in the United States have just been removed from the list of "enemy aliens."

CRIMINALS AND DUPES.

Here, as everywhere, a concerted strategy of the United Nations is essential. The dynamic policy is not to throw leaflets out of one aeroplane and bombs out of another for a while and then stop both, but to drive home the wedge between Mussolini and his dupes. While we resolutely prosecute the war against the whole of the Axis, it must be made apparent to the Italian people that the United Nations have no intention whatsoever of sparing war-criminals but that they do not intend to victimise war-dupes. These dupes

must realise that they have far more chance of a future with the nations of liberty than under the wheels of a German triumph. By a firm declaration of such resolve the United Nations could immensely weaken what is left of Mussolini's twenty-year grip on his once credulous but now doubting public. The bitter paradox of Italy's ruin must be stated and it must be repeated. (For repetition, boring as it may sometimes seem, is the core of propaganda.) "Italians, your victory (with Germany) is your slavery. You have nothing to win but your chains."

THE AXIS HAVE THEIR TROUBLES.

(*The Indian News Letter*, *February 13, 1943*).

Of our own shortages and shortcomings we are only too well aware. For that very reason we are apt to forget that the Axis countries are suffering as severe, if not more severe, shortages—which they are unable to make good by calling upon their partners. It is not often we hear of their difficulties through sources which cannot be dismissed as propaganda. Two recent instances have come to our attention and we give them below.

According to the Swedish paper *Goeteborges Posten*, '**Germany has already brought about her total war effort and it would be impossible to get any more out of the nation which is already working twelve-hour shifts at the machines, is employing six million foreign workers and a large number of war prisoners in trying to maintain ten million men on a war footing**'. The paper goes on to point out that Germany is even trying to engage Swedish labour, apparently because her hope of further assistance from her satellite countries is not forthcoming.

Japan, for her part, is finding much difficulty in solving her shipping problem. Tokyo radio itself is our source for the following statement: '**Because of iron shortage, which represents a greater problem for Japan than it does for Europe, Japan favours the building of wooden and sailing ships, and even small and very small craft, which during good weather can be used for transport across the high seas.**' The German radio followed this with the statement, 'The Japanese are building bamboo rafts to transport war materials'. Tokyo has added to its announcement a story regarding the production of wooden ships in large numbers in the south, of which photographs had appeared in all the Japanese papers. In the south, it should be remembered, are most of Japan's leading shipyards

ITALY HARD HIT.

Of Italy's troubles on the home front we have written before. They have been added to very considerably by recent heavy air attacks on her main production centres. Reports just released in London, based on careful expert

study of R. A. F. reconnaissance photographs taken after two heavy attacks on Turin, reveal that this city suffered the most intensive industrial destruction yet produced by a bombing attack on any city. Some seventy industrial plants, including almost all the main objectives, have suffered major damage. While some have escaped with a roof or workshop gutted, others appear to be almost totally demolished. Ten branches of the Fiat works have suffered severely, and the damage inflicted on the armament and mechanical transport industries is on an exceptionally heavy scale. **Even in a city well prepared for aerial bombardment, the repair services would have been set a very heavy task making good the damage to industrial plants and essential services alone, and it is clear that little output is to be expected from many of Turin's leading factories in the next critical two or three months.** Two plants of the Soia Viscosa Artificial Textile Combine were also partly destroyed. These were Torino Lavorati, one of the principal mills in the Soia group and an important section in Italian cloth production, and Torino Meccanico, the main engineering works. As the Soia Viscosa produces the major part of Italy's output of staple fibre and rayon, an appreciable part of the total Axis supplies is affected by the loss of these two mills. Further extensive damage was done to the Officine Ferroviaris, on Corso Castelfidardo, Turin, one of the two repair shops equipped to handle major overhauls to the type of electric locomotive used on the Piedmontese and Ligurian railways. This type of electrified railway is particularly vulnerable to damage. It has been further reported that twenty locomotives were damaged when a shed was hit at Brignole Station, and the saturation of the repair facilities of the only other repair shop at Rivarolo, Genoa, has, in all probability, already taken place.

UNEASY VASSALS OF GERMANY.

(*The Times*).

The Governments of Germany's vassal states in south-eastern Europe are alarmed at the winds blowing from opposite quarters—from the Russian plains, from the coasts of North Africa and from Turkey, which have carried sounds that chill their courage but cheer the hearts of their oppressed subjects.

The panorama is not encouraging for the vassal or quisling Governments of the Balkhans and the Danubian basin. They have reacted to the spectacle in different ways. Whatever the facts behind the rumours, Marshal Antonescu's wish to visit Turkey and the assassination of Major General Lukatch, Chief of the Bulgarian General Staff, who was alleged to have urged the dispatch of Bulgarian troops to Russia, it is significant that Rumanian, Bulgarian and Hungarian Governments hope to find "protectors" in the Allied camp. Bulgarians are now making a virtue of the prudence which prevented their

Government from sending an army to Russia. But each of these vassals of Germany, so far as is known, is handling its political opponents with extreme rigour and the Bulgarian treatment of Jews and of Greeks on the occupied Aegean coast has been scandalously brutal.

In Croatia, on the other hand, where the Government which the Germans have installed is quisling rather than vassal, Dictator Pavelitch has even attempted measures of appeasement and has made approaches to the Croat Peasant Party, which retains the sympathy and the support of most Croats.

In Bulgaria and Rumania, the Germans have a second string of Quislings in reserve, in case their chief collabrators should one day fail them. Between Macedo-Bulgar Mihailov, Rumanian Horia Sima and Croat Eugene Kvaternik, there is no great likeness save in one important trait: their common readiness to resort to copious political assassination on the slightest excuse. Their presence in the background is no doubt designed to make the most repentant Quisling look behind him before he leaps the fence.

RADIO-LOCATION'S PART IN HUNTING U-BOATS.

For the first time it is possible to tell the inside story of the part that radio-location plays out on the oceans, writes the *Daily Herald* naval correspondent.

Our warships are equipped to detect surfaced U-boats and enemy ships long distances away—well beyond the range of the most powerful telescopes.

Radio-location was an important factor behind the reassuring news about U-boats given by Mr. Churchill on February 11. New developments are closely guarded secrets and they have been made possible by thousands of people—scientists in their laboratories and men and women working day and night in factories to produce millions of parts of radio equipment for our warships and anti-submarine planes.

Many a U-boat lying on the surface of the Atlantic, recharging her batteries and feeling safe in the blackness of the night, has suddenly been attacked by our warships before the enemy had sighted them. Radio-location was probably the powerful weapon behind the "killing" of many U-boats by the gunfire of destroyers, corvettes and other anti-submarine craft.

It has helped many British warships to pounce on unsuspecting Italian warships in the Mediterranean and has aided the navy to shoot down many an Axis plane.

In Britain, Canada and the United States big corvette programmes are in hand. Britain alone has more than 200 corvettes. They probably carry radio-location equipment.

U-BOAT'S REDUCED HARVEST.

SPRING THE TESTING TIME.

(*Mr. A. J. Mcwhinnie*).

The allied shipping position today is better than a year ago, despite big overseas operations. One of the difficulties facing the United Nation is that in withholding news of shipping losses from the Axis, their own people are apt to get a distorted picture of the sea war in their minds.

In the Allied detrmination to face facts and not to distil artificial sunshine from propaganda, London and Washington temper the news of their land and air victories with reminders that the U-boat war remains the greatest menace. The increase in U-boat warnings from official spokesmen on both sides of the Atlantic has given the impression that these repeated warnings have become necessary because the graph of Allied sinkings is showing a sharp rise.

That is not the case.

The truth is that U-boats have been having a reduced harvest lately. The spring of the year is always a testing time for anti-submarine forces. Naval history shows that February, March and April are always active months for U-boats, in the last war as well as in this. The United Nations must be prepared for severe blows at their shipping during the next few months. So British and American spokesmen decide that it is better to keep the menace of U-boats constantly before their people rather than come out with see-saw announcements in the course of the year.

The following points emerge from the situation :—

(1) Faster ships are being built in large numbers by Britain, Canada and America. But speed alone will not save a ship from U-boats which themselves can achieve 18 knots or so on the surface.

(2) Big screens of destroyers, corvettes and anti-submarine aircraft are the only answer to the U-boat menace. If proof were needed that given accurate anti-submarine protection on the seas and in the skies, convoys can get through, proof is forthcoming from the giant Allied armadas of North Africa.

(3) Britain and America are building faster bombers. But slow aircraft are playing an increasingly important part in the war on submarines. Fast machines may overshoot the spot at which U-boats are sighted. Slower planes with greater manoeuvrability can keep a U-boat's location until destroyers are called into action.

The number of U-boats in commission today is said to be approaching 500. New building is said to be at the rate of a U-boat a day.

British granaries are full—fuller, says the British Food Minister, than ever before. **The danger from the U-boat campaign is not of starving out Britain but delaying the big offensive planned at Casablanca for 1943.** That offensive must come in ships. U-boats are making their most terrific effort to reduce the number of ships available for the moment of their biggest attack in history,

And the people of Britain, although their granaries are full, are preparing for more belt-tightening. They know that their ships are being used now for more aggressive purposes than bringing food from the corners of the globe.

Despite the hazards of some recent Allied advances, initiated and fed from the sea, the Allied shipping position today is believed to be better than it was a year ago. Big developments ars being noticed in the intensification of U-boat fighting from the air. Shipbuilding in the U. S. A. alone in 1942—43 will have a cargo-carrying capacity equal to 1,000,000 railway trucks.

COMPLETE ANGLO-U. S. AMITY.

HIGHLIGHTS OF AMERICAN AID.

LONDON, February 12.—One fact twists and winds through all the figures and arguments of Mr. Churchill's speech. The fact is Anglo-American friendships and co-operations, says the *Daily Express* commenting on the Prime Minister's war review. Mr. Churchill offers to embody in a treaty Britain's promise to continue the war with Japan after the Germans have been forced to unconditional surrender.

Mr. Roosevelt puts aside the offer as unnecessary. The word of Great Britain is enough for him.

We too have relied on the word of America.

We saw the Neutrality Act repealed. We saw the Lease-Lend Act signed in March, 1941. America was still at peace but British warships damaged in battle were repaired in American shipyards and their crews were fêted in American ports.

Berths were laid down for Liberty ships. American war factories were geared to munition Britain's war.

First trickles of the torrent of American warplanes began to cross the Atlantic. Pilots of the Eagle Squadron were fighting. We had no need of a treaty with America. We had more soild links.

In the Far East, in Africa and on the seven seas, soldiers, sailors and airmen of Britain and America share joint tasks and serve under the same Commanders. In Tunisia, the most important theatre of war at the present

time, Eisenhower assumes command. He has proved his ability in the face of immense military and political difficulties, in starting this campaign.

Our great land, sea and air quartet—Alexander, Montgomery, Cunningham and Tedder—will serve under his orders and so will our peerless Eighth Army.

History has few precedents to offer for such a community of effort on such a mighty scale. But history has no precedent for nations with such advantages in common as Britain and America.

GUERILLA WARFARE ON ASSAM-BURMA BORDER.

FIGHTING AND RECONNAISSANCE PATROLS.

Last May the Japanese advance through Burma was halted at the Assam-Burma border, but although that area has provided no headline news, fighting has never ceased. Guerilla activity has been continuous.

This borderland is wild and mountainous, covered with forest, and traversed by only a few tracks. The inhabitants are scattered hill tribes who live by hunting and primitive agriculture. They still use bows and arrows—and they use them against the Japanese, against whom their chieftains have declared war.

More important than these primitive allies are the regular guerilla expeditions of British and Indian troops which raid into Japanese-occupied territory, seeking out the enemy, destroying military installations, and obtaining valuable information. There is a continuous " screen " of guerillas, practically living on the land, and operating for long periods at a time deep in enemy-occupied territory. Through the screen go out fighting and reconnaissance patrols, sometimes consisting of as few as one officer and half a dozen men, equipped with automatic weapons and as much in the way of supplies as can be carried by two or three mules. Often larger columns with more mule transport, even carrying light artillery, go out.

A PATROL'S ORDEAL.

A typical patrol was that which set out recently from a small village. For days it struggled along the almost impassable, rough gravel tracks of the dense hill country, plagued by mosquitoes and other insects, and always in peril of deadly ambush. At last it arrived at the crest of a ridge, where it was decided to lie up for a while as three of the men, who for days had been fighting against severe malaria, obviously were incapable of proceeding further for some time.

From this ridge one officer and two men set out to investigate reports concerning Japanese activities in a village 25 miles away. This involved crossing a river and, as so often happens in this country, where a stream suddenly becomes a wide river and the river turns into a roaring torrent, the task proved to be even more difficult than had been anticipated. First, a man had to risk his life in swimming the flooded river with a rope. Then a wire bridge, capable of bearing the one mule with the detachment, had to be improvised. This completed, the detachment cautiously approached the village, only to find that the Japanese had evacuated some hours earlier, having removed every scrap of food the villagers possessed, wantonly killing their cattle, and looting their houses.

BETTER LUCK.

Having seen this grim evidence of the enemy's visit, the detachment made its way back to the ridge, rejoined the remainder of the patrol and set out for another village, where it was understood that there were 100 Japanese troops, a number far in excess of that of the patrol. A number of prisoners were captured and brought back for interrogation. After nearly three weeks the patrol returned across the border of India, having gained most valuable information.

The guerilla tactics are making the Japanese occupiers uneasy. Moreover the accurate, detailed information gained by the patrols is contributing to the success of the air offensive over Burma, for the air forces of the United Nations are enabled to pick out the most valuable, and even the most secret, military objectives.

DESERT TANK AFTER DESERT WAR IS OVER.

GERMANY'S MARK--6 COMES TOO LATE.

(*The Daily Telegraph*).

The appearance of the new German Mark-6 "Tiger" tank or P. Z. K. W.-6 on the Tunisian front and the destruction of two of them has raised speculation as to the nature and intended role of this Goliath.

It is in fact a specialised desert tank, designed for open country where its role is to take up a hull down position on a distant rise presenting only its unpenetrable front to the foe and making most of the superior range and shell power of its 88-m. m. gun.

Unfortunately for the new tank, the desert war is over. It has come too late. Tunisia, with its hills and gorges, its olive gardens and its enclosures, is a country in which fighting is much like that in Western Europe. The Mark-6 is not an in-fighter.

CARROT OF THE WEEK.

This week's carrot is divided between General Tojo and the Japanese Science Mobilization Association.

General Tojo earned his half of the carrot by declaring, "No country with a population of less than 100 million will successfully exist in future".

The Science Mobilization Association earns its half for its grave deliberation on a plan for solving the crude rubber glut and the shipping famine with one ingenious stroke. "The plan calls for the construction of vessels out of crude rubber for the transportation of vital materials from the Southern Regions to Japan. Upon their arrival in Japan, the vessels will be dismantled and the rubber used as raw material".

SPEECH

DELIVERED BY

Mr. T. N. GOVINDARAJULU NAIDU, B. A., B. L.,

Chief Organiser,

ON 19—2—43 ON THE OCCASION

OF

THE PRESENTATION OF NATIONAL WAR FRONT PLEDGES AND BADGES

TO

THE MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL WAR FRONT BUREAU, PUDUKKOTTAI.

On an occasion like this when the Administrator has kindly consented to visit the Bureau office and present the N. W. F. badges and the pledge cards to the members, an Organiser of the National War Front, like myself, would like to say a few things about the significance of the National War Front badge and pledge card. I cannot better achieve this purpose than by explaining the three conditions which, according to the leaders of this great movement in various parts of India, correspond respectively to the three words, "National, War, and Front." Firstly, every member of the Organisation should be a good Nationalist. Secondly, he must realise the paramount necessity of winning the war and thirdly, he must take the forward view which alone can justify the use of the word "Front."

By a true Nationalist, I mean that every member should have the future of India at heart. If the war is won by Great Britain, we have every chance to get peace and plenty. Princes and peasants, labourers and leaders must join hands to wage this war against the common enemy and not think of

anything else till the war is won. Some people may have their political grievances but these can only be settled in a friendly spirit after the war is won. The National War Front is essential for the establishment of any National Government in India. We in the States, specially in Pudukkottai, love our Ruler and our traditions and are fully prepared to co-operate with the rest of India in furthering the war effort.

It is a "War" Front. No one can properly belong to the National War Front unless he feels in his very bones that the war must be won at all costs by the United Nations and that he himself must strain every nerve to that end. I shudder to think what an Axis domination would mean for India. I suggest that it would matter profoundly, for three sets of reasons; political, material and spiritual. On the political plane, it would be a dead stop to the 70 years of steady political progress of India and could anybody believe that a triumphant Japan would develop any new tenderness and respect for the rights of other nations and leave India to govern herself? On the material plane, we have seen the record of Japan in occupied countries. Japan is a small country with an overgrown population and they are up to colonise India at the cost of even the small trader and the agriculturist. On the spiritual plane, is there anything that can be reconciled with the Indian way of life and that of the Axis? We know what an Axis victory would mean and we are not prepared to face such a hideous prospect.

The word "Front" is used not only because of its technical military meaning but because it suggests the Forward view. The country is pulsating with new life, and nascent nationalism is longing to express itself in a powerful drive towards material prosperity which means an improved standard of living for the masses. We must strive for all these and in the words of Mr. P. J. Griffiths, the Central Organiser, we must adopt the slogan "through Victory to Freedom."

So then you have the significance of the National War Front, and the pledge you take and the badge you will wear are in essence the embodiment of all I have told you.

Now I turn to the National War Front work in the State. The Pudukkottai State War Information Bureau was started in July 1940 and was rechristened as the National War Front Bureau in May 1942. Since then propaganda work has been intensified by the appointment of Organisers who, I am glad to report, have now completed their tour of almost every important village in the State and made the Organisation popular by appointing Sub-Organisers and sub-leaders. Another activity of the Front is the opening of 10 Branches in various important places in the State and they correspond to the reading circles in some Districts of British India. Propaganda by means

of lectures and Film shows has, as usual, been carried on most vigorously by enthusiastic and honorary members, who are now assembled here, to receive the badges. The weekly Bulletin issued by the Bureau is achieving more popularity and is keeping to its high standard.

The Administrator and the Assistant Administrator are taking keen interest in the Bureau and the work of the Organisers and after the inauguration of the National War Front have visited various centres and delivered inspiring addresses. Our thanks are due to them.

I have now the greatest pleasure in requesting the Administrator to present the badges and cards to the members and offer us a few words of advice.

PUDUKKOTTAI STATE NATIONAL WAR FRONT BUREAU.

PROGRAMME.

LECTURE CXXXV. (*Batch 6.*)

27- 2-43	Municipal Office.	6.00 p.m.
28- 2-43	Malampatti ...	7.00 „
„	Perambur ...	7.30 „
1- 3-43	Kilanilai Pudup-patti.	7.00 „
„	Kilanilaikottai...	7.30 „
2- 3-43	Malaikkudippatti	7.00 „
„	Tulaiyanur ...	7.30 „
3- 3-43	C. S. M. High School.	10.00 a.m.
„	Rani's High School.	10.15 „
„	College A English	10.15 „
„	College B Tamil.	10.15 „
„	Pulvayal ...	7.00 p.m.
„	Vayalogam ...	7.30 „

4th and 5th are Mahasivarathri holidays.

LECTURE CXXXVI. (*Batch 1*)

6- 3-43	Municipal Office.	6.00 p.m.
7- 3-43	Puvarasakudi ...	7.00 „
„	Venkatakulam ...	7.30 „
8- 3-43	Perungalur ...	7.00 „
„	Adanakkottai ...	7.30 „
9- 3-43	Kiranur ...	7.00 „
„	Nanjur ...	7.30 „
10- 3-43	C. S. M. High School.	10.00 a.m.
10-3-43	Rani's High School.	10.15 a.m.
„	College A English	10.15 „
„	College B Tamil.	10.15 „
„	Mirattunilai ...	7.00 p.m.
„	Arimalam ...	7.30 „
11- 3-43	Poongudi ...	7.00 „
„	Satyamangalam...	7.30 „
12- 3-43	Udayalippatti ...	7.00 „
„	Killukottai ...	7.30 „

RECRUITING—ADVERTISEMENT—4 p. m.

27—2—43	Vettamviduthi.
28—2—43	Tittanviduthi.
1—3—43	Arimalam.
2—3—43	Perambur.
3—3—43	Rayavaram.
4—3—43	Kulipirai.
5—3—43	Pudukkottai.
6—3—43	Tirumayyam.
7—3—43	Marudankonviduthi.
8—3—43	Mullangurichchi.
9—3—43	Konapattu.
10—3—43	Kilanilai-Puduppatti.
11—3—43	Alangudi.
12—3—43	Karambakkudi.

Sri Brihadamba State Press, Pudukkottai. 750—28-2-43.